

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) An item of jewelry comprising a central stone, the central stone comprising a pavilion, a crown having a plurality of crown facets and a table and having the shape of a regular polygon, the polygon having a plurality of sides when observed from the table of the central stone, and a corresponding plurality of peripheral stones arranged around the central stone with the length of an edge of one of the sides of each of the peripheral stones being identical to the length of one of the sides of the regular polygon, the visible portion of each peripheral stone being divided into three triangular having at least one peripheral stone facets, wherein the central stone and the peripheral stones are arranged on a support comprising a first ring concentric with and connected to a second ring smaller in diameter and greater in height than the first ring, said second ring having a top edge and a T-shaped shoulder on said top edge, the T-shaped shoulder extending continuously around the circumference of the second ring, with one side of the T-shaped shoulder being configured to be snapped into a longitudinal groove extending entirely around the circumference of the pavilion of the central stone and with the other side of the T-shaped shoulder being snapped into a groove present in each peripheral stone, each peripheral stone also being located in position by a slot formed on the inside of the perimeter of the first second ring wherein at least one facet of each peripheral stone has an angle of incidence to the table of the central stone equal to the angle of incidence of an adjacent crown facet to the central stone to simulate the appearance of the crown of a stone larger than the central stone.

2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (previously presented) The item of jewelry claimed in claim 1, wherein the central stone is an octagonal stone and the plurality of peripheral stones comprises eight trapezoidal stones.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The item of jewelry claimed in claim 1, wherein each crown facet and a facet of a corresponding adjacent peripheral stone, considered together, simulate a one of the bezel facet facets of a brilliant-cut stone, wherein said simulated bezel facet is a diamond-shaped facet comprised of said crown facet and said peripheral stone facet positioned together.

18. (previously presented) The item of jewelry claimed in claim 1, wherein the first ring and the second ring are both circular.

19. (previously presented) The item of jewelry claimed in claim 1, wherein the first ring and the second ring have bases and the first and the second ring are connected at their bases by a number of converging arms arranged at regular intervals around the rings.